

the cutting edge portion of the workpiece substrate with a wear resistant coating material; [and] performing a hot isostatic pressing treatment on the coated workpiece substrate to obtain a metal product having a wear resistant surface comprised of the coating material, the wear resistant surface being formed at the cutting edge portion and having a diffusion bonding between the coating material and the workpiece substrate[,]; and sharpening the cutting edge portion so that the diffusion bonding between the coating material and the workpiece [substarte] substrate [being effective for retaining] retains the wear resistant coating material on the cutting edge portion during [an edge] the sharpening process of the cutting edge portion and during use of the cutting edge portion of the formed metal product.

25) (Amended) A method of forming a metal product having a cutting edge according to claim [24] 17, wherein the cutting tool comprises one of a drill bit, end mill, lathe tool bit, saw blade, planer knife, and cutting tool insert.

27) (Amended) A method of forming a kitchen knife having a cutting edge having a wear resistant surface, comprising the steps of: forming a knife substrate having a cutting edge portion; performing a high-density coating process to coat at least the cutting edge portion of the knife substrate with a wear resistant coating material; [and] performing a hot isostatic pressing treatment on the coated knife substrate to obtain a kitchen knife

having a wear resistant surface comprised of the coating material, the wear resistant surface being formed at the cutting edge portion and having a diffusion bonding between the coating material and the knife substrate[,]; and sharpening the cutting edge portion so that the diffusion bonding between the coating material and the knife substrate [being effective for retaining] retains the wear resistant coating material on the cutting edge portion during an edge sharpening process of the cutting edge portion and during use of the cutting edge portion of the formed kitchen knife.

Additional Fees:

No additional fees are believed to be required. However, should it be determined that any additional fees are due, please contact the undersigned attorney for immediate remittance of any such fees.

REMARKS

In the last Office Action, the request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114 was accepted and the finality of the previous Office Action was withdrawn. Claim 17 was rejected to because of a noted informality. Claim 25 was objected to as being of improper dependent form. Claims 17-23 and 25-36 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatenatble over Applicant's Admitted Prior Art ("AAPA") in view of Liburdi et al. ("Liburdi").